



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 6
1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200
DALLAS, TX 75202-2733

SEP 03 2004

CERTIFIED MAIL: RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED (7003 0500 0003 0866 0303)

REPLY TO: 6WQ-POT

Marcy Leavitt, Chief
Surface Water Quality Bureau
State of New Mexico Environment Department
P. O. Box 26110
Sante Fe, New Mexico 87502-6110

RECEIVED

SEP 13 2004

SURFACE WATER
QUALITY BUREAU

Re: Request for EPA review and approval on the *Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for the Lower Rio Chama Watershed (Below El Vado Reservoir to the Confluence with the Rio Grande)*

Dear Ms. Leavitt:

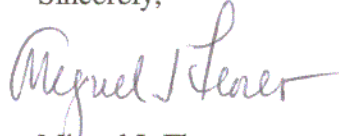
The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the ten (10) TMDLs transmitted by your letter to Miguel Flores dated June 8, 2004. By this letter EPA is approving the loadings as established in the documents grouped together as the *"Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for the Lower Rio Chama Watershed (Below El Vado Reservoir to the Confluence with the Rio Grande)"*, to include:

- *"Total Maximum Daily Load for Turbidity, Chronic Aluminum, and Fecal Coliform in Cañones Creek"*, segment No. 20.6.4.119 NMAC
- *"Total Maximum Daily Load for Turbidity in the Rio Nutrias"*, segment No. 20.6.4.119 NMAC
- *"Total Maximum Daily Load for Turbidity in Poleo Creek"*, segment No. 20.6.4.119 NMAC
- *"Total Maximum Daily Load for Temperature in Polvadera Creek"*, segment No. 20.6.4.119 NMAC
- *"Total Maximum Daily Load for Turbidity, Chronic Aluminum, and Temperature in the Rio Vallecitos"*, segment No. 20.6.4.115 NMAC.
- *"Total Maximum Daily Load for Dissolved Oxygen on Abiquiu Creek"*, segment No. 20.6.4.116 NMAC

Based on this review, EPA concludes that the TMDLs listed above meet the requirements found in Section 303 of the Clean Water Act and the implementing regulations at 40 CFR 130.7. EPA is therefore pleased to approve the TMDL loadings contained in these documents and their incorporation as updates to the New Mexico Water Quality Management Plan. Please note that while included in the NMED submittal, an implementation plan is not required by current regulations and this approval does not address the existence or the adequacy of any implementation plans contained within these submissions.

We commend your staff for the considerable effort that went into developing and establishing these TMDLs. If you would like to discuss these approvals, please contact me or Catherine Penland of my staff at (214) 665-7122.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Miguel I. Flores". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Miguel I. Flores
Director,
Water Quality Protection Division

Enclosures